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EXCISE

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CONFIDENTIAL
PAGE 01 TOKYO 21200 0209502
ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 AID-00 FA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 21200
CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD
E.O. 12065: GDS 12/02/86 (IMMERMAN, ROBERT M.) OR-P
TAGS: ELAB, PEPR, JA, SK
SUBJECT: (C) SOHYO PLANS STRIKE AIMED AT SOUTH KOREAN IMPORTS/EXPORTS OVER KIM DAE JUNG ISSUE
REF: A) TOKYO 20044, B) TOKYO 21028, C) TOKYO 21132

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. FOLLOWING ITS ANNOUNCEMENT ON NOV. 27 THAT IT WILL SPONSOR A BOYCOTT OF KOREAN GOODS AND CALL ON MEMBER UNIONS TO REFUSE TO HANDLE CARGO TO OR FROM SOUTH KOREA IF THE SOUTH KOREAN SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS THE DEATH SENTENCE AGAINST KIM DAE-JUNG (REFTEL B), SOHYO (GENERAL COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS OF JAPAN) ANNOUNCED CONCRETE STRIKE PLANS ON DEC. 1. ACCORDING TO SOHYO ANNOUNCEMENT, IF THE DEATH SENTENCE IS UPHELD, TRANSPORTATION WORKERS' UNIONS IN NIIGATA AND SHIMONOSEKI ON THE JAPAN WEST COAST, THE CENTER OF TRADE BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA, WOULD REFUSE TO HANDLE CARGO TO OR FROM SOUTH KOREA FROM DEC. 6-13.

CONFIDENTIAL
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 21200 0209502
PARTICIPATING UNIONS WOULD INCLUDE ZENKOWAN (ALL JAPAN HARBOR WORKERS' UNION), KOKURO (NATIONAL RAILWAY WORKERS' UNION) AND DORO (NATIONAL RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS' UNION).

3. IN ADDITION, ZENKOUN (ALL JAPAN COUNCIL OF TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNIONS) ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON NOV. 28 (1) STRONGLY PROTESTING THE "GOJ'S SUPPORT OF THE SOUTH KOREAN MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" AND "THE CHUN REGIME'S OUTRAGE"; (2) CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OF REGULAR CABINET TALKS BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA AND OF JAPANESE ECONOMIC AID TO KOREA; AND (3) DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF KIM.

4. ZENKOUN IS A LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF SIXTEEN TRANSPORTATION WORKERS' UNIONS, OF WHICH KOKURO, DORO AND ZENKOWAN ARE PROMINENT MEMBERS, COMPRISING 852,000 WORKERS. IT HAS NO AUTHORITY OVER MEMBER UNIONS.

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CONFIDENTIAL PAGE 1

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY H. Temple DATE 8/18/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCISE

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REFLECTS THE STRONG INTEREST OF UNIONS ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE SOHYO HOUSE IN THIS ISSUE. ZENKOUN AFFILIATES, ACCORDING TO MINISTRY OF LABOR SOURCE, NOTIFIED THE GOJ ON OCT. 31 THAT THEY WOULD STRIKE DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER OVER THE YEAR END BONUS ISSUE, A STRIKE WHICH IN THE CASE OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IS ILLEGAL.

5. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DEC. 6-13 TRANSPORTATION WORKERS' STRIKE IS THE LATEST STEP IN SOHYO'S MOVEMENT TO SAVE KIM DAE JUNG. SOHYO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT IF THE DEATH SENTENCE IS UPHELD, ALL MEMBERS OF SOHYO-AFFILIATED UNIONS WOULD STOP WORK FOR TEN MINUTES IN PROTEST AND SOME UNIONS WOULD HOLD RALLIES. ON NOV. 20, SOHYO CHAIRMAN MOTOFUMI MAKIEDA, SECRETARY GENERAL MITSUO TOMIZUKA AND ICHIO ASUKATA, CHAIRMAN OF THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY,

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MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SUZUKI AND REQUESTED THAT THE GOJ DO ITS UTMOST TO SAVE KIM. THEY FURTHER REQUESTED THAT, IF KIM IS EXECUTED, THE GOJ SEVER DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA (REFTEL C).

6. THE LARGELY PRIVATE SECTOR DOMEI (JAPANESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR) CONTINUES TO DISPLAY A MUCH MORE AMBIGUOUS ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE KIM CASE. DOMEI CHAIRMAN TADANOBU USAMI, WHO VISITED KOREA IN JULY AND AGAIN IN OCTOBER, HAS PUBLICLY TAKEN A STANCE IMPLYING SUPPORT FOR THE CHUN GOVERNMENT, DECLARING THAT THE CHUN REGIME WAS NOT OPPRESSING THE KOREAN PEOPLE BUT RATHER WAS ROOTING OUT POLITICAL CORRUPTION. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE NEW KOREAN CONSTITUTION RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF LABOR TO ORGANIZE, BARGAIN COLLECTIVELY AND STRIKE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EXECUTING KIM WOULD ISOLATE KOREA IN A WORLD THAT ALREADY MISUNDERSTANDS IT AND THAT DOMEI WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE KOREA ISOLATED.

7. [redacted]

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